

Housing

Increase of 6.3 percent to add to burden of cost of education

By approving a 6.3 percent increase in housing fees, the Board of Trustees has compounded the problem of the rising costs of education. The raise will hurt on-campus students where it hurts — in their bank accounts.

The latest increase is the second in two years for the nearly 7,000 students who live on campus. In 1988, the trustees voted to raise the cost of living in one of USC's residence halls 6.7 percent. The combined increases will leave students to face housing costs that are 13 percent higher than two years ago.

The cost of on-campus housing is rising dramatically across the country — between 7 and 9 percent. Clemson has already increased its housing rates for next year by 7.2 percent. Living on campus is getting more expensive.

Still, USC does not need to jump on the bandwagon and raise its rates. In fact, it seems that they are already quite high. For example, students living on The Horseshoe pay more than \$1,000 a semester; next year, Horseshoe residents will pay \$1,100 for their rooms.

USC administrators said the primary reason for the increase was security. Much of the extra revenue is earmarked to hire more desk assistants and security guards to enforce visitation policies. USC security officials report that crime is actually down on campus.

Security is a real issue that needs to be addressed, but residence halls are not the best place to start the fight against crime. The visitation policies are well enforced. Hiring more students and security guards to monitor who comes in and out of residence halls will not curb crime because crimes such as larceny and vandalism are often committed by the residents themselves. USC needs more security guards to patrol the campus, but it does not need more people to write down the names and Social Security numbers of guests.

This latest increase could spur a mass exodus of students as on-campus housing gets more expensive than off campus. As visitation policies continue to be more puritanical and rates continue to be more expensive, students could decide that the benefits of moving off campus may outweigh the advantages of living at USC.

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Excesses upstage USC's funding needs

The word has come down from the president — USC needs a housing increase, a student activity fee increase, a tuition increase and who knows what the hell else increased.

I don't know how to spell this sarcastically enough, but here we go — *heh heh heh haaa*.

Yup, James Holderman has assured us that in order to continue the quality of programs we have here at "This USC," he needs more money.

So the question is who gets to pay? The students, who else? He wants our money, and there's just about nothing we can do to stop him.

You see, he's got the Board of Trustees lined up right behind him. They rarely question USC's spending policies. Holderman says "money, money, money," and the Board nods.

Holderman, giver of porcelain, wants more of your money. He needs to keep this university on its financial feet, and he's not willing to trim the excess, unnecessary programs to do it.

He could sell off the university jets and fly coach from now on, but he's a part of the jet-set, you see. USC runs the rather expensive Bell Camp that is rarely used, but we need bucks for the library.

USC has a parking division, but it's really a division designed to ticket students who can't find



Stephen Guilfoyle

parking because there aren't enough spaces where we need them.

Holderman has a private parking space (actually, he's got about three or four), so tickets are no problem for him.

USC runs a telephone service called ASKUS. ASKUS provides a nice service, but it isn't a vital service.

USC runs a service to rent out camping equipment. That's a darling little service, but it just isn't necessary.

USC runs a program, which is getting bigger and bigger, to study the freshman year experience.

Throw all that money back into the general till, and I'll tell you about the freshman year experience — it was a pain. And it isn't necessary to study it, because it's a pain I and most others, can and did handle without a study or a class.

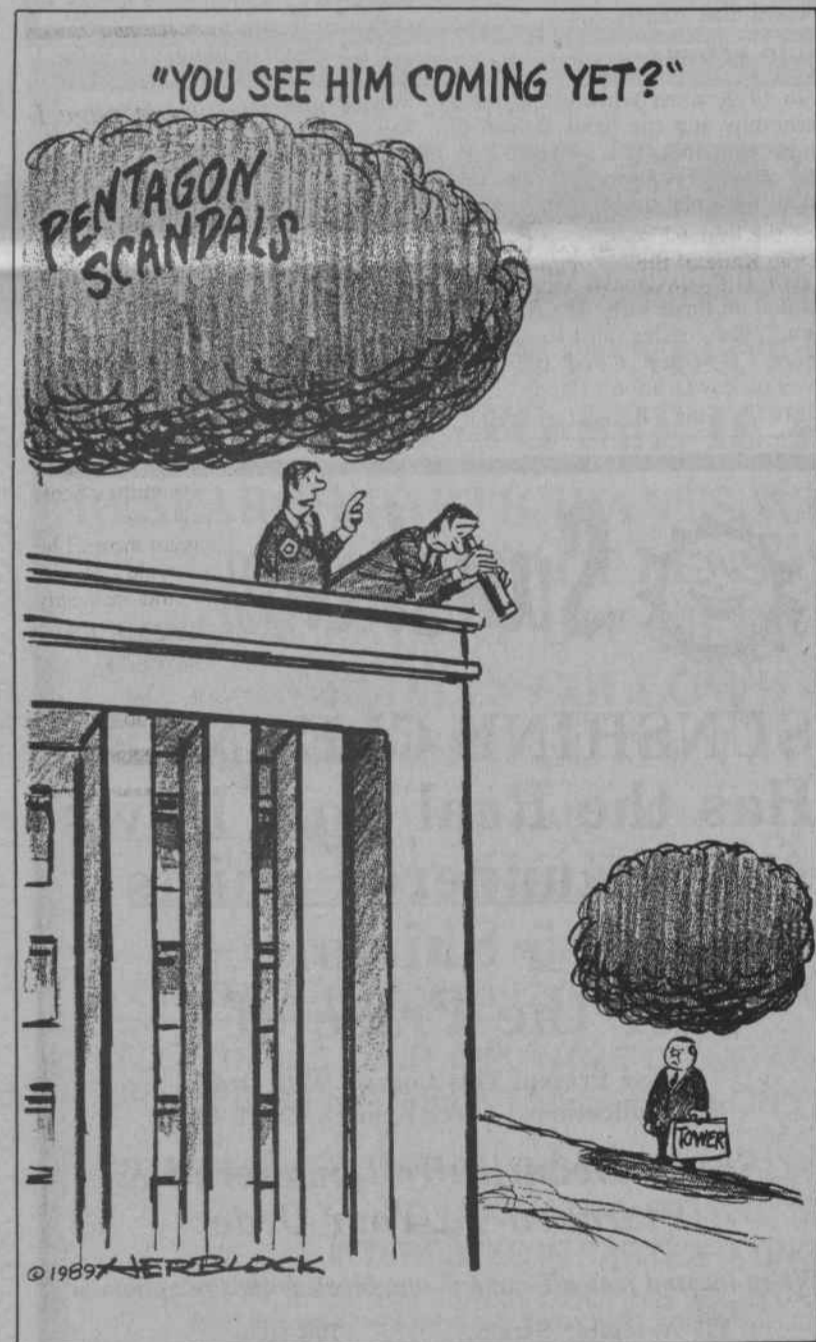
USC runs a huge public relations department, but that's not enough for Holderman. Last year, he had to hire a private media consultant to help improve his image.

Nothing's getting cut; we're not watching the money close enough. So without cuts, revenues need to increase. We're certainly not going to get more money from the state because there are enough legislators out there who think Holderman doesn't run a tight ship over here. They snicker up their sleeves at any request for additional money.

So where does the extra money come from? Look around next time you're in class. The guy sitting next to you — whose father, unlike Holderman, didn't get a 12 percent pay increase last year — he's gonna pay it.

The girl who sits at the front of the class, whose mother works in a mill and whose father has been laid off — she's gonna pay it.

But Holderman — soon-to-be-maker of movies, they say — he's not going to pay it. And he's probably the only one who can afford to.



S.G. shouldn't be scared of radical change

It's almost over. The banners. The buttons. The posters. The promises. The hoopla. Hurray.

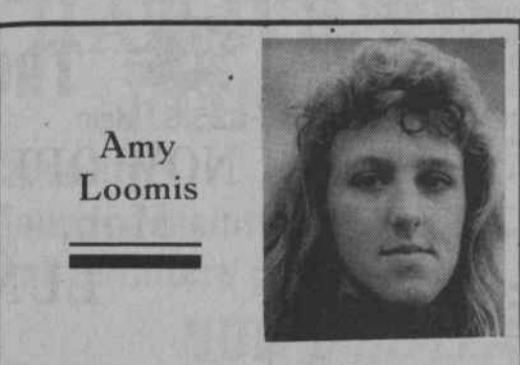
In case you haven't noticed, I'm talking about that wonderful institution we call Student Government. This is the same Student Government that Dan "D. J." Jensen horrified when he ran for president.

It's shameless — the very idea of him running for S.G. president. After all, what was he thinking? Did he really believe that his ideas and goals for USC were innovative...daring...revolutionary? He wanted to restructure Student Government. He wanted to change things. He wanted to make it better. Horrors. The gall. The nerve. The shrewdness.

Let's face it. Student Government, for the most part, is a farce.

It's loaded with hundreds of students on more than 30 committees, which usually accomplish nothing. They sometimes have good intentions that they suggest to our great university president, but we all know his attentive face and open ear aren't always what they seem.

Why should he be attentive to Student Government if it doesn't wield any real power? Perhaps it



Amy Loomis

serves a purpose as being the voice of the student body. But it is not sufficient to be only heard.

Can Student Government change itself to be more effective? That remains to be seen.

One person who proposed a radical change was taken off the presidential ballot on a mere technicality. Maybe this should be inspiring. After all, the S.G. types were united for this cause. Another candidate's efforts to propose a change in our stone-age voting system were killed because some people only saw it as a campaign stunt.

That's a stupid reason not to implement a much-needed reform. What would happen, do you suppose, if they unified for a worthwhile cause? Could they possibly accomplish something? Probably not.

Success involves change. You're all too familiar with the phrase, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." This seems to be the motto of Student Government. When faced with serious change, Student Government has repeatedly wimped out. I suppose it's only natural to resist change when you're complacent with mediocrity.

What's the solution? Student Government whines that the student body is apathetic. They seem surprised and offended by our apathy. Do they honestly believe that they've ever given us a reason to be anything else?

Once upon a time, a student ran for president who promised to eliminate Student Government. Not surprisingly, he won. The surprising part is that he kept his promise. Unfortunately, someone brought it back.

Maybe, just maybe, there is hope for Student Government to have the power to make a change.

The Gamecock

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Society of Professional Journalists, 1987-88

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Letters to the editor

Columns tend to be fluffy

To the editor:
I was appalled by Jeff Shrewsbury's column of Feb. 13 titled "Oh, Canada, what a great country, eh?" Yet I was not surprised by its exemplification of the unrelenting conjecture and irrelevance currently printed in *The Gamecock*.

His sole basis for it seems to be a trip during his childhood when he was a cinematic aficionado. What is so perplexing is how this child prodigy who could not only digest the significance of Checkpoint Charlie, but retain such a phenomenal memory to regurgitate verbatim heard at such an age a decade later could write such a piece of fluff.

I assure you that Canadians are well aware of nuclear weapons from

the underground test on Nov. 6, 1971, on Amchitka Island in the Aleutian chain to the well-publicized test flight of a B-52 with unarmed cruise missiles over western Canada on March 6, 1984 — not to mention the arrival of nuclear warheads at North Bay on Dec. 31, 1963, and at La Meaza, a base north of Montreal on Jan. 9, 1964.

It appears that the whole piece was unresearched. The name Bob-lo Island originated as Etiowiteedaneti, which means "people's island of whitewood guarding the islands" in Huron Indian dialect. Because of the poplar trees, the French renamed it Boys Blanc, which means "white wood." This was transferred into Bob-lo when adopted as the official name of the park in 1929 because visitors would have trouble pronouncing "Boys Blanc."

I, for one, do not care to be propagandized by uninformed pseudo-authorities, whether it concerns

childhood experiences or the drunken escapades of Chuck Dean. Phallic cartoons draped in condoms printed in an unrelated segment to the cartoon are in poor taste. I am also adamantly against columns whose sole purpose was to mention a female friend's name in the paper.

I do not mean to lambaste the staff of *The Gamecock* for being understaffed and pressed with deadlines that produce this filler, but if you cannot find it too difficult to produce quality journalism in short time periods, try reducing your periodical to a weekly issue.

Karl Juncker
International studies senior

USC to leave fond memories

To the editor:
As a soon-to-be alumni, I will

always have fond memories of "The USC." But surely my fondest memory will be of my worthless student parking sticker, those yellow parking tickets and my long drives around the campus in search of a parking spot.

One of my fondest memories is the administration's response to the problem printed in *The Gamecock*. The phrase "there is no parking problem at USC" will always stick in my mind.

As I begin to receive my alumni "we need money" letters from USC, I will know that surely they can't be serious for anyone who has paid for parking stickers, tickets and meters knows that there is "no financial problem" at USC.

Rob Clarke
Graduate student